

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SCI-06 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14 INR-11

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/158 W

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R 311010Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2645

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1201

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN AIRLIFT

1. SUMMARY: ACTING AADO, MOH REP, ARMY CAPTAIN IN CHARGE OF GRAIN TRANSPORT AND TWO PCVS FLEW CHARTER TO NEMA AUG 29 TO OBSERVE/ASSIST OPENING OF AIRLIFT. INITIAL RUNS WENT SMOOTHLY ALTHOUGH SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT TRUCKS NOT PRESENT. GOVERNOR HAS DISTRIBUTION PLAN FOR AND CAPACITY TO STORE ALL INCOMING GRAIN IF NECESSARY.

2. THURSDAY AUG 29 TWO FLTS CARRYING 10T EACH ARRIVED NEMA 0900 AND 1000 HOURS RESPECTIVELY. BOTH PLANES UNLOADED IN TIMELY FASHION WITH ONE TRUCK. PILOTS SEEMED PLEASED WITH TRIAL RUNS AND MADE ACCEPTABLE SUGGESTIONS FOR MODIFICATIONS. USAF STILL HAS SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT RUNWAY, BUT THAT BEING CAREFULLY WATCHED WITH ALTERNATIVES CLEARING IN HAND.

3. MOH HAS ASSIGNED 14 TRUCKS TO NEMA FOR DURATION OF AIRLIFT AND DISTRIBUTION. DUE HEAVY RAINS ALONG SOUTHERN TRACKS, TRUCKS HAVE NOT ARRIVED AS PREDICTED. ON RETURN TO NOUAKCHOTT CHARTER OVERFLEW ROUTE AND LOCATED TRUCKS IN KIFFA. ARMY PREDICTS TRUCKS WILL ARRIVE NEMA SATURDAY

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AS ROUTE KIFFA-NEMA PASSABLE. PCV MECHANIC WILL REMAIN

NEMA MOST OF SEPT ASSIST LOCAL GARAGE WITH TRUCK REPAIRS.
NEMA AT PRESENT HAS ONE 12T AND ONE 5T TRUCK AVAILABLE
OFF-LOAD PLANES. ANTICIPATE LITTLE DIFFICULTY AS AIR FIELD
CLOSE TO TOWN, AND GOVERNOR HAS CAPACITY STORE GRAIN UNTIL
MOH TRUCKS ARRIVE. JTF COMMANDER PLANS SPACE PLANES
1 1/4 HOURS APART.

4. REGION HAS 6 DISTRIBUTION CENTERS: OUALATA (100KM FROM
NEMA), BASSIKOUNOU (220 KM), TIMBEDRA (120 KM), DJIGUENNI
(200KM), AMOURJ (60 KM), AND NEMA. PLAN IS TO WORK 10
TRUCKS DIRECT FROM AIRPORT TO DISTRIBUTION CENTERS ON
ROTATIONAL BASIS TO ASSURE 4 TRUCKS IN NEMA TO UNLOAD PLANES
AT ALL TIMES. IF NECESSARY NEMA HAS CAPACITY TO STORE ALL
THE 3000TS UNDER COVER.

5. MOH TRUCKS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO 10,000 LITRE TANKERS
FULL OF FUEL FOR USE IN NEMA REGION FOOD TRANSPORT, WITH
FORMULA OF 50 LITRES X 100 KM X ONE TRUCK AND TONNAGE TO BE
DELIVERED AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER DISTANCE FIGURED IN,
ARMY TRANSPORTATION CAPTAIN ANTICIPATES SUFFICIENT FUEL
AVAILABLE.

6. OTHER PCV WILL REMAIN MOST OF AIRLIFT TO ACT AS LIAISON/
TROUBLE SHOOTER. THIS EXTRA MEASURE TO ENSURE SMOOTH
OPERATION.

7. OVERALL ESTIMATION IS THAT AIRLIFT SHOULD COME OFF WITH
MINIMUM BOTTLENECKS. SHURTLEFF

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